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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (09/11): Upcoming Special Envoy
Visit Grabs Headlines

Main Stories:

Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam dailies lead with a story on Special Envoy George Mitchell's trip to the region, noting that there is a consensus among the Arab states that the continuation of Israeli settlement activity will lead to the failure of international peace efforts. The Arab states are also calling for an international committee to investigate issues relating to former Palestinian land and properties within "Green Line" Israel, according to coverage. Al-Quds quotes Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Al-Malki calling on the Arab states not to move towards normalization with Israel.

In related news, Al-Quds highlights Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying that Israel "will not offer any compromises" and "will not allow the establishment of a terrorist state in the West Bank."

The three dailies front page news on the Palestinian Liberation Organization's (PLO) positive reaction to the Egyptian plan submitted earlier this week containing suggestions for internal Palestinian reconciliation, according to the PLO Executive Committee's Secretary General Yasser Abed-Rabbo.

Al-Quds highlights Israeli settlers attempting to "take over" the house of the Al-Dawodi family in the Old City of Jerusalem. Al-Quds reports that five settlers stormed into the house after breaking the locks while the family was out.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Yahya Rabah opines in Al-Hayat Al-Jadida official daily under the

title "The Winners and the Losers" (09/11): "There are no winners or losers in the events of September 11. Everyone is a loser and no group, no matter how strong, can save themselves and isolate themselves from the weakest group in the world. There cannot be hundreds of millions of poor people and also security. We can't have millions of oppressed and then pretend there is security. And the Israeli occupation cannot continue to disregard the lives of Palestinians and Arabs and then hope that everyone enjoys security."

2) Mohammad Yaghi opines in Al-Ayyam daily under the headline "Obama: Hour of Truth Draws Near" (09/11): "Obama is the one who redefined the US policy to make it more balanced. He is the one who revived terminology that was last used prior to President Reagan when he described settlement activities as illegal and tried to halt these activities in the occupied lands, including Jerusalem. And Obama is the one who reminded us that the origin of this conflict is not the June 4th (1967) war but the tragedy of the displacement of the Palestinian people in 1948. He is the one who clearly stated that putting an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, contributes to eliminating terrorism."

RUBINSTEIN